

Upper Valley Subcommittee
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Monday – June 19, 2017
Lyme Town Office, New Hampshire
Approved Minutes

Present

Carl Schmidt, Orford
Christine Bunten, Orford
Katie Little, Lyme
Sue Mackenzie, Lyme
John Mudge, Lyme
Alice Creagh, Hanover
Jim Kennedy, Hanover
Lynn Bohi, Hartford
Melissa Horwitz, Norwich
Bartlett Leber, Norwich
Tara Bamford, CRJC, staff

1. The meeting was opened at 7:04 by Chairman Jim Kennedy and introductions made.
2. The minutes of April 17, 2017 were approved as presented by motion of Mudge/ Creagh.
3. Permit Reviews

-Hanover Country Club – comments are due July 7. Jim wants to coordinate with the Hanover Conservation Commission and do a site visit. Girl Brook is a tier 3 stream based on acreage of the watershed. The college is replacing the high bridge with a lower bridge. There is a stone ford and old collapsed culvert. They had applied earlier as a trail application but they want to use it for service vehicles too. The engineer is calling it intermittent; some parts do dry up. The plans don't show the crossing at the stone ford, but the application does say it is going to be there. Tara will help notice the site visit and Jim will coordinate it and draft a letter. He will also try to get the plans electronically to circulate. Bill said when he was at Dartmouth in the 60's the ford was the trail for cross-country – there was no bridge yet.

-NHDOT – This was a notification for a dredge and fill. They are reaching out in advance of fixing a failing embankment along Rte 10 near the 89.8 mile marker. It is not an emergency yet but they want to expedite it before it becomes one. There are cones and barrels. Sue observed it has moved 20 feet since last fall. Jim wants to do a site visit, with Hanover Con Comm if possible. Alice said the group can gather at her house. Jim wants to see them armor the toe and up a little and revegetate the bank and redirect the surface water so it doesn't happen again.

-Report back from NHDES LAC workshop – Sue attended the workshop and noted that some LACs are very active on the rivers in other ways besides permit reviews. Activities on the river to raise awareness were discussed. Tara mentioned the CRC July events and source to sea clean-up. Bartlett suggested having the boat access maps out at events as a good outreach tool. The CRWC one is more up to date than CRJC's but it isn't free.

It was noted that the speed limit signs that ANR made to put up at the accesses don't seem to be at all of them.

Anyone interested in following river-related legislation was encouraged to get on Tracie's list for the DES rivers program tracking. Her email address is Tracie.Sales@des.nh.gov

Jim discussed his efforts to work with DES to make the LAC role more effective. He said the DES rules are being revised. There will be mandatory preapplication meetings and the LACs will be able to have the minutes and notifications. The timelines are going to change but it isn't clear yet how. DES had looked at combining reviews and having reviewers in the field.

Sue gave an update on Lyme's applications. The next one will be Grant Brook where there is slumping. Jim suggested Sue request a DES site visit prior to submitting an application to get their input in the plans.

4. Update on FERC relicensing for Wilder Dam – Jim submitted the comments on the PLP but not all of the final study reports are available yet. The timing of next steps is not clear now b/c of that.

5. Possible outreach event at Montshire Museum with Conte Refuge - Tara said she is still waiting to hear if there will be an opportunity for the Subcommittee to partner with the Conte refuge for an educational event at the Montshire.

6. Permit review process - Jim and Tara provided copies of a checklist used by the Upper Merrimack LAC. Jim said they assign a volunteer to each and seem to have a better process with better follow through. Tara said one of her goals for this year is to get all 5 subcommittees following a process that gives each member a chance to see the plans and comment while following both states right to know laws. She thought Upper Merrimack's is a good resource but may be too ambitious.

7. Other business/updates – Lynn said Melissa knows someone in Hartford who may be interested in becoming a member. He could be an alternative in David decides to stay on as is hoped.

There will be a site visit to the Fisher property when the owner is ready.

Alice reported that Paddle Power for suicide awareness will take place this year on August 19.

8. Next meeting will be July 17 if needed, otherwise August 21.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38.

Minutes respectfully provided by Tara Bamford.

